name, expenditure incurred till March, 1998, viable/non-viable, losses suffered in non- viable projects, reasons for non-viability/loss and steps taken on them) are annexed. [*See* Appendix 184, Annexure No. 65]

Raising of Coal from BCCL Collieries

2137. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether tender has been published to raise coal from four BCCL collieries for private agencies, if so, the facts in detail and also the reasons therefor;

(b) whether raising of coal by the private agencies is prohibited; and

(c) if so, the justification for the tender?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir. It has been stated by BCCL that Global tenders had been invited for introduction of an appropriate technology for optimisation of coal production in some of coal mines in BCCL. The scope of tender provides for supply of equipment, installation and commissioning of equipment and successful operation thereafter in the following underground mines on gain/risk sharing basis:

1. Moonidih
2. North Amlabad
3. Bhalgora
4. Pootki Balihari

(b) It is presumed that the Honourable Member is refering to contract labour. If so, raising of coal by contract labour is prohibited vide Government of India, Ministry of Labour Notification No. S.O. 2063 dated June 21, 1988.

(c) Notification dated 21.6.1988 is not applicable as the tender is for introduction of technology, its absorption and supply of equipment with performance guarantee and not for raising of coal through contractors labour.

Joint sampling of coal at power station

2138. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether practice of joint sampling of coal at power station end was in vogue in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the practice has been abandoned unilaterally by the Coal India Limited (CIL);

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Gujarat has requested for the revival of the practice;

(f) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(g) if Government does not propose to reintroduce the system, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (g) Upto 1982 coal sampling was done by the coal company at the loading end. In August 1982, the then Ministry of Energy decided that on a trial basis sampling and quality checking should be undertaken jointly at the loading end. Later in December, 1986 the Ministry of Energy decided that sampling and quality checking should be undertaken by an independent organisation under Central Electricity Authority (CEA) at the loading end. As the CEA could not implement this decision, in October, 1991, the Committee of Secretaries decided that sampling and quality will be determined by the Coal Controller at the loading end. This decision was reiterated in June, 1995 by the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure with a modification that legally enforceable contracts are to be entered into between the supplier and consumer and sampling and quality should be determined jointly at the loading end.

Since most of the SEBs are not cooperating with coal companies in this

regard a meeting was convened by Secretary (Coal) with the Council of Power Utilities and a arrangement has been evolved in principle according to which coal would be sampled by the same sampling agency at the loading end and at the unloading end. The concerned SEBs and coal companies would decided the agency which could be entrusted with the work of sampling of coal. The agencies for carrying out sampling of coal both loading and unloading end has since been identified. It is now for the individual power house including that of Gujarat Electricity Board and the coal companies to work out the ground details.

सिंगरेनी कोलियरीज कंपनी लि० के कर्मचारियों और श्रमिकों की बहाली

2139. **श्री बलवंत सिंह रामूवालिया:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सिंगरेनी कोलियरीज कंपनी लि० ने अपने यहां कर्मचारियों और श्रमिकों को स्वैच्छिक सेवानिवृत्ति योजना के अंतर्गत सेवानिवृत्त करने का निर्णय किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो स्वैच्छिक सेवानिवृत्ति योजना की विस्तृत रूपरेखा क्या है; और

(ग) क्या कंपनी ने अतिरिक्त कर्मचारियों और श्रमिकों की संख्या के संबंध में अनुमान लगाया है; यदि हां, तो उनकी संख्या कितनी है?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय): (क) और (ख) सिंगरेनी कोलियरीज कंपनी लि० में कोल इंडिया लि० के समान कोई स्वैच्छिक सेवा-निवृत्ति योजना नहीं है। किन्तु, मजदूर यूनियनों के साथ दिनांक 29.1.1981 को किए गए समझौते के ज्ञापन के आधार पर कंपनी में "स्वास्थ्य आधार पर स्वैच्छिक सेवानिवृत्ति" योजना है। इस योजना के अंतर्गत, वृद्ध और निर्बल श्रमिक यदि चिकित्सा बोर्ड द्वारा सेवा के लिए अक्षम पाए जाएं, तो उक्त श्रमिक अपने एक आश्रित पुरुष सदस्य को, आरोग्यता और रिक्तियों की उपलब्धता की शर्त पर भूमिगत खान में रोजगार दिलवा सकते हैं।

(ग) 1998-99 हेतु सिं० को० कं० लि० में अधिशेष श्रमशक्ति का एक अस्थायी आकलन किया गया था और 5,087 कर्मचारी अधिशेष पाए गए हैं।

Financial Position of Singareni Collieries

2140. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) action taken to strengthen the financial position of Singareni Collieries;

(b) the outstanding dues pending in that collieries; and

(c) the suggestion put forth to clear the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The Central Government have taken the following measures to strengthen the financial position of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL):

(i) Deregulation of pricing of A, B & C grades of non-coking coal w.e.f. 22.3.96 and deregulation of the pricing of D grade of non-coking coal w.e.f. 12.3.97.

(ii) Allowing SCCL to revise the prices of E, F & G grades of non-coking coal till 1.1.2000 once in every six months by updating the cost indices as per the escalation formula contained in the report sbumitted by BICP in 1987.

(iii) Investment of Rs. 458.00 crores as equity (including conversion of loan amounting to Rs. 402 crores) during the VIII Plan.

(iv) Extension of a loan of Rs. 49.52 crores during VIII Plan period.

(v) Extension of bilateral credit of Rs. 403.84 crores during VIII Plan period.

During 1997-98 Government of India have invested Rs. 80.22 crores as equity and extended Rs. 77.50 crores as loan and Rs. 40.7 crores as bilateral credit.